

FBIS 20*****

GREEK POLITICAL PARTIES FREEDOMS RESTORED

AT 23 1030 ATHENS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN GREEK 1800 GMT 23 SEP 74 AT

(TEXT) THE LEGISLATIVE DECREE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE RESTORING THE FREEDOM TO FORM ASSOCIATIONS AND THE PRIVACY OF COMMUNICATION WERE PUBLISHED TODAY.

PREMIER KARAMANLIS MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS IN THIS CONNECTION:

THE LEGISLATIVE DECREE ON THE REFUNCTIONING OF THE PARTIES AND ABOLISHING LAW 509, AS WELL AS THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE RESTORING THE FREEDOM TO FORM ASSOCIATIONS AND THE PRIVACY OF COMMUNICATION, CONSTITUTE TWO NEW CONCRETE STEPS IN THE ATTEMPT TO SECURE THE FREE EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S WILL. THE NEW MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED CONSTITUTE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD RESTORING DEMOCRATIC LEGALITY. THEIR IMPORTANCE CANNOT BE DISPUTED BY THOSE WHO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE PEOPLES VERDICT. THE GOVERNMENT WILL FIRMLY PROCEED ON THE COURSE IT HAS LAID DOWN FOR THE FULL RESTORATION OF THE PEOPLES SOVEREIGNTY. THE SPEEDY RESORT TO THE POLLS IS NOT DICTATED ONLY BY OUR DEMOCRATIC SENSITIVITY OR BY AN OBLIGATION RESULTING FROM OUR ORIGINAL DECLARATION; IT RESPONDS MAINLY TO A NATIONAL COMMAND FOR THE TACKLING OF USEFUL NATIONAL ISSUES, AS I HAVE STRESSED REPEATEDLY.

AS OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW LAWS, ALL THE PARTIES, WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION, ARE FREE TO LEGALLY DEVELOP THEIR ACTIVITY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS JUDGED THAT THE REASONS FOR WHICH CERTAIN PARTIES WERE OUTLAWED DO NOT EXIST ANY MORE. ALL THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AIM AT LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A TRUE PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF WHICH ALL THE GREEKS WILL HAVE A PLACE, PROVIDED THEY RESPECT THE LAWS AND DO NOT DEVIATE INTO ACTIONS WHICH HARM THE MORE GENERAL INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY AND THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF DEMOCRACY.

THE COMPLETE LIFTING OF THE LAW ON THE STATE OF SIEGE AND THE PROCLAIMING OF ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE FAR OFF. IT IS TIME THAT THE COUNTRY'S, POLITICAL FORCES, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE GREEK PEOPLE'S ADMIRABLE MATURITY, UNDERTAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PEOPLES EXPECTATIONS AND HELP IN THE SPEEDY RESTORATION OF THE COUNTRY'S FREE REGIME.

23 SEP 2014Z RK/BG*****